

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 478
By Peach

A RESOLUTION in remembrance of Coach Fred Jackson Gamlin.

WHEREAS, the state of Tennessee lost one of its finest coaches and most esteemed citizens on December 7, 1981: the day Coach Fred Jackson Gamlin passed unexpectedly from our midst; and

WHEREAS, Fred Gamlin was a highly regarded basketball coach, respected educator and mentor to both students and athletes; he was a distinguished citizen of the state of Tennessee who was very dedicated to his profession, community and family; and

WHEREAS, a native of Paris, Tennessee, Coach Gamlin attended Murray State University, and in 1961, shortly after receiving his degree, began his brilliant coaching career at Big Sandy; and

WHEREAS, coaching both boys and girls, Coach Gamlin amassed an impressive career at Big Sandy, Martin, Union City, and Henry County high schools; his lifetime hoops career stands at 578-208, an amazing 73.5% winning percentage; this combined record includes 306 wins at Big Sandy; and

WHEREAS, during his prodigious coaching career, Coach Gamlin's teams won six district titles and two regional titles, two substate victories and his teams made two state playoff appearances; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gamlin will be long remembered for his mastery of basketball fundamentals, his emphasis on fitness and discipline and his discerning eye for talent; Coach

Gamlin was also an innovator, being one of the first coaches of his day to use a 1-3-1 zone defense, the jump shot and weight training in girls' basketball; and

WHEREAS, one of Coach Gamlin's most admirable qualities included the uncommon ability to motivate his players to fully realize their potential, perhaps the most valuable of all skills; his teams were always mentally prepared to play and he instilled confidence and the belief in his players that any game was winnable; and

WHEREAS, knowing that success in the classroom was as important as success on the court, Coach Gamlin always placed academics first, encouraging those under his charge to achieve outside of sports; and

WHEREAS, recognized for his personal and professional successes, Coach Gamlin was inducted posthumously into the TSSAA Coaches Hall of Fame on March 18, 1995, an accolade most befitting this exceptional man; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gamlin left behind a special message that he authored; the message he left behind became his legacy, his words of wisdom for other coaches and players:

Athletics give you strong loyalties, discipline, a concept of right and wrong and an opportunity to know the value of hardship and sacrifice.

In competitive athletics, the lasting benefits come when you do your best. There can be some consolation in defeat only when you keep a stout heart, control disappointment and refuse to alibi. Then when you win, keep pride in victory, be modest, but not boastful.

Remember that your participation and sportsmanship is a real test of self-control because your reaction becomes a matter of public record to everyone concerned.... but mostly to you.

WHEREAS, Coach Gamlin is survived by his widow, Glenda Fay Gamlin Altan; two sons, Fred Jr. and Jan Glenn Gamlin; his mother, Ida Gamlin; and a sister, Wanda Hagge; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gamlin was one of northwest Tennessee's most admired and respected sports personalities; to honor the memory of the man they still remember as "Coach",

Big Sandy Alumni will participate in a basketball game on March 23, 1996, at the Big Sandy High School Gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Coach Gamlin left behind will be treasured by former students, athletes, family members, friends and associates for many years to come and it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Coach Fred Jackson Gamlin, remembering with admiration his exemplary character, his many successes and his selfless contributions to Northwest Tennessee and our great state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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